



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held August 12, 2008, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich:

“Between 1997 and 2005, the obesity rate among adults in Los Angeles County increased by nearly 50%. The most recent *Key indicators of Health* report by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has found that among 5th, 7th, and 9th graders attending public schools in the County, nearly one in four were obese. Adults who are obese are at an increased risk for a host of chronic diseases, including heart disease, stroke, Type 2 diabetes, and cancer. Children who are obese are more likely to be obese as adults, and are also at increased risk for developing hypertension, high blood cholesterol levels, and Type 2 diabetes during childhood and as adults.

“Over the past several decades, the trajectory of the obesity epidemic has been mirrored by the growth in consumption of restaurant meals. During this period, so called ‘super-sizing’ of food and beverage portions at restaurants has become widespread, particularly at fast food and other large restaurant franchises. Frequent consumption of meals at fast food restaurants has been associated with excess weight gain in both children and adults. Researchers for the 2005 Los Angeles County Health Survey found that one in four children aged 2 to 17 had eaten fast food in the preceding 24 hours.

“Studies have shown that most people, including nutritionists, greatly underestimate the caloric content of restaurant menu items. While calorie and other nutrition information are required to be posted on packaged food products, such information is rarely available at the point of purchase in restaurants. A recent study by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health indicates that mandated posting of calorie information on menus and menu boards at fast food and other franchise restaurants is an important strategy for combating the obesity epidemic. The study has found that if just 10% of restaurant patrons ordered reduced calorie meals (with an average reduction of 100 calories per meal), as a result of calorie information provided on menus, it would result in a 39% decrease in weight gain among County residents. An even larger impact would be realized with public education efforts to increase the percentage of restaurant patrons who order reduced calorie meals.

(Continued on Page 2)

“Menu labeling shows great promise as an alternative strategy for reducing the obesity rate as well as the financial and human costs associated with diet-related disease. For this reason, several jurisdictions including New York City, King County of Washington, the City and County of San Francisco, and Santa Clara County have adopted menu labeling ordinances. Pending legislation at the State level (SB 1420 - Padilla), would require chain restaurants with 15 or more outlets in California to post calorie and other nutritional information on menus. Until such time as the State enacts Senate Bill 1420 or comparable legislation, Los Angeles County should seize the opportunity to develop a menu labeling ordinance that will allow restaurant patrons and consumers to make informed decisions at the point of sale at any one of approximately 300 to 350 franchise restaurants operating within the unincorporated areas.”

Dr. Jonathan Fielding, Director of Public Health answered questions posed by the Board.

John G. Harold, M.D., Andrew Casaña, Peter Whittingham and Arnold Sachs also addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich made a recommendation that the Board take the following actions:

1. Instruct County Counsel, in conjunction with the Director of Public Health, to take the following actions:
  - Develop an ordinance requiring that each food facility in the unincorporated area that operates under common ownership or control with at least 14 other food facilities with the same name in the State that offer for sale substantially the same menu items, or operates as a franchised outlet of a parent company with at least 14 other franchised outlets with the same name in the State that offer for sale substantially the same menu items, shall post nutritional and caloric information for all standard menu items on menus and menu boards; and
  - Report back for Board’s consideration within 30 days; and
  - Include within the ordinance a license fee, if necessary, for the enforcement of the menu labeling program; and
2. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board, with the assistance of the Director of Public Health, to send five-signature letters to the Mayors and City Managers of all 88 incorporated cities within the County, encouraging them to consider the development and adoption of a similar menu labeling ordinance.

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After further discussion, Supervisor Yaroslavsky made a recommendation to amend the motion to place the report on the Board's agenda of September 16, 2008 as a discussion item. Supervisor Antonovich accepted Supervisor Yaroslavsky's amendment.

On motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Instructed County Counsel, in conjunction with the Director of Public Health, to take the following actions:
  - Develop an ordinance requiring that each food facility in the unincorporated area that operates under common ownership or control with at least 14 other food facilities with the same name in the State that offer for sale substantially the same menu items, or operates as a franchised outlet of a parent company with at least 14 other franchised outlets with the same name in the State that offer for sale substantially the same menu items, shall post nutritional and caloric information for all standard menu items on menus and menu boards; and
  - Report back for Board's consideration at the meeting of September 16, 2008; and
  - Include within the ordinance a license fee, if necessary, for the enforcement of the menu labeling program; and
2. Instructed the Executive Officer of the Board, with the assistance of the Director of Public Health, to send five-signature letters to the Mayors and City Managers of all 88 incorporated cities within the County, encouraging them to consider the development and adoption of a similar menu labeling ordinance.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Director of Public Health

Letters sent to:

Each Mayor, County of Los Angeles  
Each City Manager, County of Los Angeles

**EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

SACHI A. HAMAI  
Executive Officer



August 15, 2008

TO: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: Sachi A. Hamai  
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTERS

As instructed by your Board, enclosed are five-signature letters to the Mayors and City Managers of all 88 incorporated cities within Los Angeles County encouraging their consideration of the development and adoption of a similar menu labeling ordinance as the one being considered by your Board.

Your earliest attention to this matter would be appreciated. Please have your Secretary contact Emma De Jesus in the Minutes/Communications Section at extension 41444, for circulation to the next Board Office.

SAH:edj

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Enclosures

August 15, 2008

The Honorable John Edelston  
Mayor  
City of Agoura Hills  
30001 Ladyface Court  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mayor Edelston:

In an effort to combat increasing obesity rates and chronic disease in Los Angeles County, the Board has taken action to develop an ordinance requiring the display of nutritional information on menus and menu boards for food facilities in the unincorporated areas with at least 14 franchised outlets or operations under the same name. We therefore encourage you to consider the development and adoption of a similar menu labeling ordinance.

Studies have shown that most people, including nutritionists, greatly underestimate the caloric content of restaurant menu items. While calorie and other nutrition information are required to be posted on packaged food products, such information is rarely available at the point of purchase in restaurants. A recent study by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health indicates that mandated posting of calorie information on menus and menu boards at fast food and other franchise restaurants is an important strategy for combating the obesity epidemic. The study has found that if just 10% of restaurant patrons ordered reduced calorie meals (with an average reduction of 100 calories per meal), as a result of calorie information provided on menus, it would result in a 39% decrease in weight gain among County residents. An even larger impact would be realized with public education efforts to increase the percentage of restaurant patrons who order reduced calorie meals.

Menu labeling shows great promise as an alternative strategy for reducing the obesity rate as well as the financial and human costs associated with diet-related disease. For this reason, several jurisdictions including New York City, King County of Washington, the City and County of San Francisco, and Santa Clara County have adopted menu labeling ordinances. Pending legislation at the State level (SB 1420 - Padilla), would require chain restaurants with 15 or more outlets in California to post calorie and other nutritional information on menus.

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Until such time as the State enacts Senate Bill 1420 or comparable legislation, Los Angeles County is seizing the opportunity to develop a menu labeling ordinance that will allow restaurant patrons and consumers to make informed decisions at the point of sale.

We urge you to closely follow our efforts in the development of this menu labeling ordinance. Once adopted, the Public Health Officer will share the ordinance with you to encourage adoption of a similar measure in your municipality.

Very truly yours,

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YVONNE B. BURKE  
CHAIR  
SUPERVISOR, 2ND DISTRICT

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GLORIA MOLINA  
SUPERVISOR, 1ST DISTRICT

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ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
SUPERVISOR, 3RD DISTRICT

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DON KNABE  
SUPERVISOR, 4TH DISTRICT

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
SUPERVISOR, 5TH DISTRICT

SAH: edj

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August 15, 2008

Mr. Greg Ramirez  
City Manager  
City of Agoura Hills  
30001 Ladyface Court  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Dear Mr. Ramirez:

In an effort to combat increasing obesity rates and chronic disease in Los Angeles County, the Board has taken action to develop an ordinance requiring the display of nutritional information on menus and menu boards for food facilities in the unincorporated areas with at least 14 franchised outlets or operations under the same name. We therefore encourage you to consider the development and adoption of a similar menu labeling ordinance.

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Very truly yours,

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YVONNE B. BURKE  
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